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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Bulgaria

SUBJECT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. In Bulgaria the Communist government spent large sums for mass sports training. Sport in Bulgaria is under the Supreme Committee For Physical Culture and Sports which is headed only by name by Major Vladimir Stoychev [Lt Gen]. The committee is under the Ministerial Council headed by Vulcho Chavlenko (?). The State budget provides funds for sports. Funds for sports are also gotten through the enterprise budgets from trade union income, membership income, and from sale of tickets to the sports events.
2. In Sofia near the Unak Sports Field on the Evlogi Georgiev Blvd there is a new stadium which has a capacity for 50 thousand spectators. There are five thousand places in the shade. The former Levski Postmen's Club is now called "Dinamo". The Slaviya Sports Club is now called "Udiarnik" (shop worker). It is the club of the labor troops. The AS-23 Military Sports Club is now the Central Club of the People's Army. The former Railroad Workers Sports Club is now the Lokomotiv Club. In other cities clubs have also changed their names and are now called Lokomotiv Udiarnik, Torpedo, Sidir, Cherveno Znamo, and Proletariy.
3. Enemies of the government are not allowed to participate in sports clubs. Because many of the good sportsmen were anti-Communists they were allowed to join these clubs but they are put into the unreliable group as opposed to the reliable group of sportsmen. For example, in Bulgaria there are two national soccer, two basketball groups and two volley ball groups. The groups are designated by "A" and "B". The "A" team is reliable while the "B" team is politically unreliable, despite the fact that the "B" teams are much better than the "A" teams. This has been proven during September 1952 when the "B" teams conquered the "A" teams. The same "B" team also conquered the Hungarian team during 1952. The Hungarian team which was conquered by the Bulgarian "B" soccer team was later the Olympic champion at Helsinki. Despite the victory of the "B" team the Communists did not want to send this team to Helsinki because the players were members of former Sports clubs called "Levski, Slaviya and the Railroad Clubs." People visit soccer matches in great crowds.

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4. During 1952 the best soccer players were inducted into the army in order to create a very great army soccer team. But, even this method did not bring satisfactory results. The sports public divides the clubs in two - Zlastnitsk (governmental) and Opozitsiya (opposition). In the first category the Central Club of the Peoples Army is included as well as the Spartak Club of the Ministry of Interior and the State Security, the Akademik Students Club, the VVS Aviation Club, the VMS Navy Club, the Chervenc Zname Club, the Chervena Zvovda Club, and the Torpedo Club. In the second category (opposition) are included the "Dinamo", (the former Levski club) Udarnik Club (which was a former Slaviya) and the Lokomotiv Club (which is a former railroad workers sports club). Despite the high prices for the republic soccer championship (tickets were from three leva to eight leva) the population went to these games in large groups in order to show their resistance to the Communist regime and to root for those who are for a free and independent Bulgaria.
5. During the spring of 1952 the Dinamo and Spartak clubs met the Central Club of the Peoples Army soccer field. There were 45 thousand spectators. The referee was in favor of the team of the State Security. The public was against the decision of the referee and wanted him dismissed. They shouted "out with the referee - down with the militia". The team of the State Security, however, lost the game. Because of the incident the sports events are guarded by the militia and troops as well as State Security agents.

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